
ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 1976 - JUNE 30, 1977

DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH

WALTER F. LEWIS

DIRECTOR

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

FREDERIC WINTHROP JR.

COMMISSIONER

21000000-10000000

REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF ANIMAL HEALTH

July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

To the Commissioner of Agriculture:

In accordance with Section 38, Section 129, General Laws, Acts of 1932, I herewith submit the report of the Division of Animal Health for the fiscal year, July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1977 inclusive.

There can be no successful animal-related agriculture without the control and eradication of livestock and poultry diseases.

Tuberculosis and brucellosis are the two most important diseases that pose a direct threat to humans since they can be transmitted from diseased animals to healthy humans.

The most serious outbreak of brucellosis since Massachusetts was declared free in 1966 occurred on three farms this year. The spread of the disease was so fast that complete herd depopulation was judged to be the most feasible solution on the first farm.

The infection on the other two large farms appeared to be moving much slower. The conventional eradication method of "test and slaughter" of infected animals was initiated. At year-end this procedure is giving promise of success.

The surveillance to maintain our freedom from tuberculosis in bovines consists of three parts. The first is the requirement that imports arrive with certificates of health indicating that they come from TB free sources.

The second is the testing of all bovines every three years for possible presence of tuberculosis.

The third is a check that comes at the time of slaughter when meat inspectors search for TB lesions. When these are found, a trace is made to the herd of origin and all members of the herd are tested.

Fortunately, another year has passed without an outbreak of tuberculosis.

The 1976 outbreak of hog cholera extended to July 1976. We are hoping that the disease has been finally eradicated.

Many herds were discovered to be carrying hogs with a high titer for hog cholera. This is evidence that the virus

has been present at some time. Much effort was expended in getting these high-titered hogs moved to market. We cannot be considered hog cholera free until these high-titered herds are cleared up.

It is our firm belief that the manifestation of this disease, discovered in Massachusetts in 1976, came from the use of hog cholera vaccine. It is quite possible that the use of this vaccine continued after it was outlawed in 1969.

It is reliably reported that hog cholera vaccine still exists in Massachusetts. It is likely that it will be used again. In view of this situation, plans should be made to continue a surveillance of Massachusetts hogs for the presence of hog cholera titer. It is recommended that every herd be checked at least once per year. Much of this could be accomplished by splitting samples taken in connection with brucellosis eradication and revalidating.

Continued progress in eradication of swine brucellosis was made in 1977. Blood samples taken in connection with hog cholera eradication were split with one portion being used to test for brucellosis. It was discovered that the prevalence of the disease in eastern Massachusetts was much less than anticipated.

Continued progress was made this year in the eradication of E.I.A. in Massachusetts.

No cases of Encephalomyelitis were reported this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter F. Lewis
Director

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

There were seven hundred and eighty-two (782) tuberculin herd tests, thirty-seven thousand six hundred and sixty-seven (37,667) animal tests applied to which one hundred and thirteen (113) head were declared Deviates. Upon comparative cervical retest, many became negative, several remained suspects and three were declared Reactors. The previous fiscal year there were six hundred and ninety-three (693) tuberculin herd tests and twenty-nine thousand six hundred and forty-six (29,646) animal tests applied to which one (1) was reported as a Reactor.

One hundred and fifty-six (156) herds containing two thousand five hundred and fifty-six (2,556) head of cattle included in the census report of June 30, 1976 were disposed of by the owners prior to the census period ending June 30, 1977.

Seventy-six (76) herds containing nine hundred and eight (908) head of cattle to which testing has not previously been conducted are included in the census report of the period ending June 30, 1977.

Tuberculin tests are conducted by State and Federal accredited veterinarians under a State and Federal Cooperative Plan for the establishment of tuberculosis-free herds and the eradication of bovine tuberculosis.

Following is a summary of the tuberculin tests as made by veterinarians for the twelve month period of this report:

	<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>	<u>REACTORS</u>
Veterinarians paid by the State on a salary basis	374	18,977	3
Veterinarians paid by the State as Program Agents	408	18,690	
Veterinarians paid by the Federal Government on a salary basis	-	-	
	<hr/> 782	<hr/> 37,667	<hr/> 3

Indemnity was paid for 3 Reactors during the fiscal year.

COUNTY CENSUSAS OFJUNE 30, 1977

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>	<u>100 or More Head</u> <u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>
Barnstable	6	103	-	-
Berkshire	322	14,032	57	6,253
Bristol	259	10,183	20	3,655
Dukes	18	198	-	-
Essex	135	3,878	7	1,428
Franklin	396	13,918	29	4,669
Hampden	202	5,599	11	1,393
Hampshire	340	11,654	25	4,271
Middlesex	190	5,238	14	2,213
Nantucket	1	36	-	-
Norfolk	70	2,078	2	338
Plymouth	159	6,922	14	4,746
Suffolk	-	-	-	-
Worcester	615	21,550	46	6,533
TOTALS	2,713	95,389	225	35,499

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF NEAT CATTLE, HORSES, SWINE, SHEEP, AND GOATS

In accordance with Section 10, Chapter 129 of the General Laws the annual inspection of neat cattle, horses, swine, sheep and goats and of the premises where kept was completed.

Reports received from the cities and towns showed that inspection indicated the following information:

COUNTY	HERDS	NEAT CATTLE	HORSES AND PONIES	SWINE HERDS	SWINE HEADS	SHEEP	GOATS
Barnstable	23	110	663	31	119	150	112
Berkshire	448	14,830	1,810	98	523	627	181
Bristol	452	10,987	1,961	150	6,708	482	394
Dukes	33	376	303	31	87	619	127
Essex	187	3,482	3,134	53	3,797	358	238
Franklin	491	15,172	1,412	111	1,009	370	239
Hampden	292	5,995	1,337	55	1,014	554	83
Hampshire	390	11,872	1,493	84	2,534	1,050	231
Middlesex	235	5,769	4,086	97	7,845	700	326
Nantucket	1	23	82	1	1	28	2
Norfolk	123	1,831	1,864	60	2,166	448	192
Plymouth	272	7,353	2,413	100	4,128	580	346
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worcester	954	21,988	3,889	203	11,869	1,267	402
TOTALS	3,901	99,788	24,447	1,074	41,800	7,233	2,873

Of the total number of cattle inspected, sixty-six thousand five hundred and forty-one (66,541) were grade dairy cows, heifers and calves; fourteen thousand nine hundred and twelve (14,912) were purebred dairy cows, heifers and calves. There were also four hundred and eighty-six (486) purebred bulls listed.

Also there were many miscellaneous animals such as buffalo, chickens, deer, donkeys, geese, llamas, mink, oxen, etc.

PRIVATE CALFHOOD VACCINATIONS

(OWNER'S EXPENSE)

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>HERDS</u>	<u>HEAD</u>
July <u>1976</u>	19	114
August	19	124
September	10	63
October	35	211
November	25	116
December	17	93
January <u>1977</u>	34	225
February	35	204
March	40	243
April	29	154
May	29	149
June	21	92
TOTAL	313	1,788

BRUCELLOSIS

The Brucellosis program has been carried on in accordance with Chapter 129, General Laws as amended by Chapter 527, Acts of 1956.

During the fiscal year 1977 reimbursement to owners was made for one hundred thirty-five cattle reactors (all grades) amounting to three thousand three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$3,375.00).

Listed on the following page is a tabulation of the results of laboratory examination of the blood samples from cattle under this program; also from goats and swine.

BRUCELLOSIS

7/1/76 - 6/30/77

	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Reactors</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>*Others</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Cattle	41,068	266	203	61	41,598
Goats	540		1		541
Swine	5,908	461	4	15	6,388
Sheep	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTALS	47,517	727	208	77	48,529

*Containers broken, insufficient
amount of serum, hemolyzed.

Validated Herds: SWINE

Validated Brucellosis-Free Herds	190
Swine in Validated Brucellosis-Free Herds	2,383

MILK RING TESTS

<u>Negative</u>	<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
4,141	44	4,185

GOATS

7/1/76 - 6/30/77

This Division arranges for the tuberculin testing and blood testing of goats provided the owner signs an agreement to the effect that any goats declared as reactors to either test would be immediately disposed of for slaughter with no compensation allowed by the Commonwealth.

Under the new T.B. testing program, goats will be tested on the same basis as cattle, every three years.

RABIES

Under the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations Chapter 111, General Laws as amended by Chapter 265, Acts of 1938, Sections 6 and 7 "Dog Bite" is declared a disease dangerous to public health.

Chapter 129, Section 21 of the General Laws, was amended under Chapter 29, Acts of 1963 to read: "All dogs known to have bitten persons shall be quarantined for a period of ten (10) days for observation, at the end of which period, if no symptoms of rabies have developed, said animals may be released from quarantine on order of the Director."

Investigation of reported injuries inflicted to persons by biting dogs and the quarantining of such dogs is one of the duties of the Inspector of Animals.

The brains of seven hundred and sixty-six (766) animals were sent to Wassermann Laboratory for examination.

The following tabulation is a record of bites inflicted by dogs and other animals.

RABIESBite Cases

	Released Quarantined Animals	Destroyed No Examina- tion	Heads to Laboratory NEGATIVE	Heads to Laboratory POSITIVE	Heads to Laboratory UNSATIS- FACTORY
<u>1976</u>					
July	1,090	2	62	6	36
August	1,036	2	123	6	31
September	1,046	0	38	5	4
October	735	0	50	2	2
November	794	1	56	0	3
December	500	2	46	2	3
<u>1977</u>					
January	493	4	33	0	2
February	416	2	34	0	2
March	641	3	41	0	4
April	724	1	57	0	1
May	1,069	2	48	1	2
June	1,056	1	59	1	6
Totals	9,600	20	647	23	96

RABIES
Bite Cases --- Fiscal Year 1977

	Released Quarantined Animals	Destroyed No Examina- tion	Heads to Laboratory NEGATIVE	Heads to Laboratory POSITIVE	Heads to Laboratory UNSATIS- FACTORY
Baboons	2	0	0	0	0
Bats	0	0	174	23	66
Bird	1	0	0	0	0
Cats	246	1	99	0	0
Chipmunks	2	1	15	0	1
Coyotes	4	0	0	0	0
Dogs	9,207	15	147	0	3
Flying Squirrel	0	0	1	0	0
Foxes	2	0	9	0	1
Gerbils	32	1	20	0	2
Guinea Pigs	6	0	3	0	0
Hamsters	34	1	39	0	6
Horses	4	0	1	0	0
Kittens	2	0	1	0	0
Lizard	1	0	0	0	0
Mice	3	0	19	0	5
Moles	0	0	3	0	0
Monkeys	8	0	1	0	0
Muskrats	0	0	4	0	0
Opossum	1	0	1	0	1
Parrot	1	0	0	0	0
Pet Bull	1	0	0	0	0
Pet Mouse	1	0	0	0	0
Pony	0	0	1	0	0
Rabbits	19	0	12	0	0
Raccoons	3	1	23	0	0
Rats	8	0	9	0	4
Seal	1	0	0	0	0
Shrews	0	0	1	0	2
Skunks	7	0	10	0	3
Squirrels	4	0	43	0	0
Voies	0	0	7	0	2
Weasel	0	0	1	0	0
Woodchucks	0	0	3	0	0
Total	9,600	20	647	23	96

CATTLE IMPORTS

7/1/76 - 6/30/77

Canada	420	New Jersey	23
Colorado	6	New York	2193
Connecticut	1613	Ohio	15
Illinois	5	Pennsylvania	63
Indiana	1	Rhode Island	83
Iowa	45	Tennessee	1
Kentucky	4	Texas	48
Maine	981	Vermont	473
Maryland	4	West Virginia	2
Minnesota	227	Virginia	43
Missouri	3	Wisconsin	14
New Hampshire	421		

TOTAL - 6,688

Six hundred and seventy-one (671) permits, covering six thousand six hundred and eighty-eight (6,688) head of cattle, were issued.

EXPORTS --- JULY 1, 1976 THRU JUNE 30, 1977

Interstate certificates of health were issued on three thousand seven hundred eighty-one (3,781) head of cattle; twenty-eight (28) goats; thirty-eight (38) sheep; fifty-six (56) swine; and three poultry, exported to other states and countries, as follows:

CATTLE

DESTINATION

Alabama	40
California	3
Canada	7
Connecticut	514
Delaware	1
Florida	80
Illinois	19
Indiana	4
Iowa	42
Kansas	2
Kentucky	16
Maine	175
Maryland	16
Michigan	6
Mississippi	1

DESTINATION

Missouri	23
Montana	4
Nebraska	50
New Hampshire	496
New Jersey	4
New York	833
North Dakota	3
Ohio	13
Pennsylvania	96
Rhode Island	433
South Carolina	2
Tennessee	48
Vermont	675
Virginia	174
Wisconsin	1

Total 3,781

GOATS

California	18
Connecticut	2
Indiana	1
Maine	3
New Jersey	1
New York	11
Ohio	2

Total 28

SWINE

Connecticut	36
Maine	8
New Hampshire	12

Total 56

POULTRY

Puerto Rico	3
-------------	---

SHEEP

California	1
Indiana	1
Maine	1
Maryland	6
New Hampshire	16
New York	9
Ohio	4

Total 38

PERMITS TO FEED GARBAGE TO SWINE

VESICULAR EXANTHEMA PROGRAM

Chapter 655 - Acts of 1953

Fiscal year 1977

During the fiscal year 1977, one hundred and fifty-nine (159) Permits were issued for Feeding Garbage to Swine.

LICENSE TO DEAL IN PORCINE ANIMALS

In accordance with General Laws, Chapter 129, Secs. 39, 40, 43, as amended by Chapter 312, Acts of 1971, twenty-four (24) Swine Dealer Licenses and twenty-nine (29) plates were issued.

LICENSING OF PET SHOPS

In accordance with Chapter 129, Section 39A of the General Laws, Chapter 993, Acts of 1971, two hundred and thirty-five (235) Licenses were issued for the Operation of Pet Shops.

CERTIFICATES OF EQUINE EXAMINATION

July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

During the fiscal year 1977, we issued two hundred and eighty (280) Certificates of Equine Examination for four hundred and seventy-four (474) horses leaving the State of Mass. for Shows, Fairs, Races, and Sales.

We received five hundred and thirty-seven (537) Certificates of Equine Examination for one thousand one hundred and three (1,103) horses that came into the State for Exhibition, Racing, Breeding and for purchase by Mass. horse men. These horses came from thirty-eight (38) States, also, Canada, England, Hungary, Holland, New Zealand.

EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS

There were no cases reported.

MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES

Contagious Ecthyma	1 herd of goats placed under quarantine
Fowl Cholera	1 flock was placed under quarantine
Laryngotracheitis	
Sarcoptic Mange	3 ponies placed under quarantine

EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

(Report of Coggins Test)

July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>NEGATIVE</u>	<u>POSITIVE</u>
Barnstable	685	685	0
Berkshire	315	311	4
Bristol	1,728	1,724	4
Dukes	252	251	1
Essex	2,413	2,411	2
Franklin	840	839	1
Hampden	2,145	2,128	17
Hampshire	976	975	1
Middlesex	3,615	3,611	4
Nantucket	70	70	0
Norfolk	1,978	1,975	3
Plymouth	1,639	1,639	0
Suffolk	1,207	1,206	1
Worcester	2,541	2,533	8
<hr/>			
TOTALS	20,404	20,358	46
<hr/>			

LICENSING OF RIDING SCHOOLS AND RIDING INSTRUCTORS

Sections 2A and 2B of Chapter 128 of the Massachusetts General Laws, with Rules and Regulations promulgated for each section, require the annual licensing of Horseback Riding Instructors and Riding Schools or Stables.

The licensing year for each section is defined as running from April 1st through March 31st. This difference between licensing year and fiscal year causes an annual overlap between new applications and new and late renewals in a fiscal year.

Income from Instructor Program during fiscal 1977 \$13,362

Resulting from:

1 duplicate license @ 2.00	2.00
151 new applications @ 10.00	1510.00
790 licenses (both new and renewal) @ 15.00	11850.00
	<u>13,362.00</u>

Since a small number of initial applications cannot be completed, not every application results in a license. Of the seven hundred and ninety (790) licenses actually issued, one hundred and twenty (120) were new for the first year and six hundred and seventy (670) were renewals. Since new licenses are issued throughout the year, and not just at the beginning of the licensing year, some applicants are actually issued and renewed during a single fiscal year. A total of seven hundred and thirty-six (736) Horseback Riding Instructor Licenses were issued during the licensing year which ended during fiscal 1977.

Income from Stable/School licensing Program in fiscal 1977	12,900.00
derived from 264 applications of which 258 @ 50.00	
and 6 (non-profit educational institutions) @ nc	12,900.00

Since the same discrepancy exists between fiscal year and licensing year for stables, delinquent renewals, late-in-year applications and the two-month waiting period for inspection result in certain stables being issued a second (renewal) license within a particular fiscal year. A total of two hundred and twenty-five (225) stable licenses were issued during the licensing year which ended during fiscal 1977. Included are six Stables operated by non-profit educational institutions. These must be licensed and are subject to all Rules and Regulations except the payment of the fee.

QUARANTINE STATION AT LITTLETON

Total number of livestock received at the Farmers Live Animal Market Exchange in Littleton from July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1977 was as follows:

Cattle	6,062
Calves	11,513
Swine	17,849
Sheep	434
Horses	496
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>36,354</u>

In addition to FLAME in Littleton, the following animals were received and sold at the Livestock Auction in Easton and the Northampton Cooperative Auction Association, Inc. in Whately, Massachusetts:

<u>EASTON</u>		<u>WHATELY</u>	
Cattle	8,137	Cattle	4,602
Calves	7,472	Calves	10,561
Sheep and Goats	934	Sheep and Goats	1,959
		Swine	2,039
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>16,543</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>19,161</u>

LICENSED DEALERS IN BOVINE ANIMALS

During the fiscal year 1977, there were eighty-eight (88) licenses issued to dealers in dairy and beef cattle, and one hundred and sixteen (116) plates were sent out for use on the trucks operated by these dealers.

A total of four thousand, eight hundred and sixteen (4,816) dairy cattle and sixty-eight (68) beef cattle were reported by licensed dealers as purchased and sold.